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Agenda item 70 (a)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Letter dated 22 July 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 15 December 2005, by which the Assembly established the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Advisory Group to advise me on the use and impact of the Fund. In accordance with paragraph 21 of the resolution, I hereby submit a note on the meeting of the Advisory Group, which was held in Geneva on 14 and 15 May 2014 (see annex).

As summarized in the note, the Advisory Group expressed appreciation for the ongoing improvements in the performance and management of the Fund.

The Group considered a number of policy issues, including the CERF risk management plan, the independent review of its Performance and Accountability Framework, and the evaluation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of its utilization of CERF funds. The Group also received an update on the resource mobilization and communications efforts of the CERF secretariat.

The Advisory Group met with senior leaders from UNHCR, the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme, and discussed the ongoing efforts and initiatives to improve the timeliness of Fund disbursement to implementing partners, strengthening the strategic use of CERF and the visibility of the Fund. The agencies acknowledged the importance of CERF for their operations and praised the speed and effectiveness of the Fund. The representatives also noted that CERF was a unique and an invaluable life-saving financing mechanism that was constrained by its size relative to the ever-growing humanitarian needs.

The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators from the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic and the Resident Coordinator from Uganda discussed with the Group their views and perspectives on CERF, the impact of the Fund in the field and the challenges they faced in ensuring that CERF funding was used strategically and for maximum impact.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of Member States and Observer Missions.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Note on the meeting of the Central Emergency Response Fund Advisory Group (14 and 15 May 2014)

Recommendations and conclusions

1. The Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on the use and impact of the Fund. The Advisory Group's first meeting of 2014 was held in Geneva on 14 and 15 May and was chaired by Catherine Walker (Australia).

2. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, briefed members on the use and management of CERF from 1 January through mid-May 2014, specifically highlighting the critical emergency assistance of CERF in response to the crises in the Central African Republic and South Sudan. The meeting was the opportunity for members of the Advisory Group to interact directly with the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators from the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic and the Resident Coordinator from Uganda. The members met with the senior leadership of CERF recipient agencies to discuss the timeliness of disbursements from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the International Organization for Migration to implementing partners, strengthening the strategic use of CERF and the visibility of the Fund. The Advisory Group was updated on resource mobilization and communications efforts by the CERF secretariat. The Group, furthermore, considered and received updates on key policy issues, including the roll-out of the new Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators CERF reporting format; the CERF risk management plan; complementarity guidance for CERF and country-based pooled funds; independent review of the Performance and Accountability Framework; overview of the CERF grant management system; revision of the CERF training framework; and the UNHCR evaluation of its utilization of CERF funds. Further to those discussions, the Advisory Group would like to make the following observations and recommendations.

Management

3. The Emergency Relief Coordinator informed the Advisory Group that CERF had allocated $186 million to 21 countries from January through mid-May 2014, and she provided an update on the ongoing efforts to ensure the strategic use of CERF funds. She placed considerable attention on the CERF approach in responding to countries affected by regional crises, which was one of the Fund's comparative advantages. The Emergency Relief Coordinator commended the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, who ensured that CERF allocations responded to needs on the ground, as prioritized by Humanitarian Country Teams, and that they were used in coordination with other funding mechanisms, particularly the country-based pooled funds. The Advisory Group expressed its appreciation to the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the CERF secretariat for their management of CERF.

4. The Advisory Group welcomed the opportunity to interact with the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators from the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and

the Resident Coordinator from Uganda, to discuss their views and perspectives on CERF, the Fund's impact in the field and challenges they were facing with the use of CERF funds. They alluded particularly to the need to reinforce the rigorous prioritization process in their Humanitarian Country Teams, which needed to take precedence over individual agencies' priorities. They also emphasized the flexibility of CERF to respond to emergencies in various contexts, carefully balanced by the CERF life-saving criteria and requirement for strategic prioritization, as one of the major comparative advantages of the Fund. They reaffirmed that CERF remained the crucial live-saving financing mechanism and was both a catalyst and lever of humanitarian response and coordination.

5. Senior leadership from UNHCR, the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme, and the Emergency Relief Coordinator briefed the Advisory Group on the ongoing efforts and initiatives to improve the timeliness of Fund disbursement to their implementing partners. The Advisory Group was encouraged by the establishment of benchmarks by some CERF recipient agencies, which allowed for better measurement of performance, and recommended that all agencies establish internal benchmarks as a matter of priority. The Group also noted that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian Financing Task Team was considering best practices from individual agencies, which could lead to improvements across the board in the timeliness of disbursement of CERF funds to recipient agencies' implementing partners. The Group encouraged the CERF secretariat to continue strengthening its partnership with IASC members within the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team. The Group will again address the issue and assess the progress made by CERF recipient agencies at its next meeting.

6. The senior leadership acknowledged the importance of CERF for their operations and praised the Fund's speed and effectiveness. Agencies maximize CERF funding based on their own internal subgranting procedures and financial mechanisms, as well as other funding resources available to them. They noted unanimously that CERF was a unique and invaluable life-saving financing mechanism, but that it was constrained by its size relative to the ever-growing needs. The representatives committed to assist with enhancing the visibility of CERF beyond its current stakeholders. They also committed to support the strategic use of the Fund, based on rigorous prioritization, thorough needs analysis and inclusiveness of the implementing partners.

7. The members commended the work of the CERF secretariat on resource mobilization and communications since their last meeting and acknowledged that the heavy reliance on major donors and lack of CERF visibility remained major challenges for the Fund. The Group endorsed the five strategic objectives of the CERF resource mobilization and communications strategy and encouraged the continuation of its implementation. The CERF secretariat was advised to maintain strong relationships with the major donors and to place additional emphasis on advocating for higher contributions from donors with untapped potential. The Group also encouraged CERF to work even more closely with the recipient agencies on joint advocacy and visibility efforts. The CERF secretariat was also advised to work towards bringing the Fund to the forefront of global campaigns, such as the World Humanitarian Day, and to define its engagement within initiatives like the World Humanitarian Summit. The members of the Group again recognized their own role in resource mobilization and advocacy on behalf of CERF, particularly in their own

regional groupings and countries, and encouraged the CERF secretariat to further elaborate on that engagement.

8. The members welcomed the piloting of the new CERF application template, which adjusted the terminology used with that of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, introduced a project log frame and aligned, to the extent possible, with the templates of the country-based pooled funds. Together with the positive experience from the introduction of the new, rolling reporting schedule for the narrative reporting of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, which reduced the agencies' reporting burden and allowed for a more timely review of and feedback for the CERF secretariat, those measures were improving the accuracy and timeliness of available data and increasing the transparency and accountability of CERF to stakeholders.

9. The members of the Advisory Group received an update on the semi-annual CERF risk action plan and again acknowledged its importance for risk mitigation and advocacy purposes. The members requested that the CERF secretariat proceed with drafting standard operating procedures to guide the actions to be taken by CERF, including timely information exchange with donors, should the CERF secretariat be made aware of a potential misuse of funds by an implementing partner. The Advisory Group will consider a draft of the standard operating procedures at its next meeting.

10. Regarding the issue of complementarities between CERF and country-based pooled funds, the Advisory Group welcomed the finalization of the guidance note on complementarity between CERF and country-based pooled funds, which had received substantial input from pooled fund managers in the field. Members emphasized that further harmonization between such funds and CERF would improve the overall coherence, efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian coordination and action. They also welcomed the recent positive examples of complementarity between CERF and the Common Humanitarian Fund in South Sudan, and urged pooled fund managers to continue addressing joint challenges, such as prioritization and monitoring.

11. The members endorsed the findings of the independent review of the CERF Performance and Accountability Framework and encouraged the CERF secretariat to continue implementing the recommended changes. That would strengthen the performance of CERF vis-à-vis accountability to affected people, non-governmental organization partnerships and complementarity with country-based pooled funds. The Group endorsed the selection of the Sudan and Myanmar for the independent country reviews to be conducted in 2014 and the planned regional review of CERF operations in response to the Syrian crisis, which would include the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

12. The Advisory Group welcomed the implementation of the new CERF grant management system and noted its positive impact on the availability of CERF project data and transparency. The members emphasized the importance of the alignment of the grant management system with the new United Nations system-wide enterprise resource planning system (Umoja) and requested that the CERF secretariat update them on the transition to Umoja at the next meeting.

13. The Advisory Group appreciated the UNHCR evaluation of the utilization of CERF funds, and encouraged UNHCR and the CERF secretariat to act on the recommendations from the evaluation in a timely manner. The Group noted that

some recipients were currently in the process of conducting their own study — such as the World Food Programme — and also encouraged other recipients of CERF funds, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, to conduct similar evaluations, as recommended by the five-year evaluation of CERF. The members also requested the CERF secretariat to survey the recipient agencies about their evaluation of the two CERF grant facilities — rapid response and underfunded emergencies window — and report on their findings at the next meeting of the Advisory Group.

14. The Advisory Group welcomed the ongoing restructuring of the CERF training framework, which will strengthen its focus on the strategic use of CERF, based on lessons learned through the individual Performance and Accountability Framework country reviews, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators' reports, evaluations and humanitarian reform. The members endorsed the planned expansion of the training audience to include the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, humanitarian country teams and cluster leads, as well as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the Resident Coordinator and United Nations agency country office/regional staffs, with the overall aim to better facilitate the prioritization and submission process.

Administrative matters

15. The Advisory Group expressed its appreciation for the work of its Chair, Catherine Walker (Australia), and thanked Carlos Eduardo Zaballa (Argentina), Jan Vandemoortele (Belgium), Stephen Salewicz (Canada), Saadatou Mallam Barmou (Niger) and Biya Han (Republic of Korea), who are completing their terms in 2014.

16. The next meeting of the CERF Advisory Group is to be held in New York in late 2014.

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Culture of peace

Information and communications technologies for development

Macroeconomic policy questions

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference

Sustainable development

Groups of countries in special situations

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Operational activities for development

Towards global partnerships

Social development

Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Note verbale dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General and has the honour, on behalf of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (the BRICS countries), to transmit the enclosed Declaration and Action Plan of the sixth BRICS summit, held in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 15 July 2014. On that occasion, the leaders of Brazil, the

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Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa gathered to discuss the theme "Inclusive growth: sustainable solutions", in keeping with the imperative to address challenges to humankind posed by the need to simultaneously achieve growth, inclusiveness, protection and preservation.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil kindly requests that the present Declaration and Action Plan be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 33, 35, 36 and 123, and of the Security Council.

Annex to the note verbale dated 5 August 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Fortaleza Declaration

1. We, the leaders of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met in Fortaleza, Brazil, on 15 July 2014 at the sixth BRICS summit. To inaugurate the second cycle of BRICS summits, the theme chosen for our discussions was "Inclusive growth: sustainable solutions", in keeping with the inclusive macroeconomic and social policies carried out by our Governments and the imperative to address challenges to humankind posed by the need to simultaneously achieve growth, inclusiveness, protection and preservation.

2. In the aftermath of the first cycle of five summits, hosted by every BRICS member, our coordination is well established in various multilateral and plurilateral initiatives and intra-BRICS cooperation is expanding to encompass new areas. Our shared views and commitment to international law and to multilateralism, with the United Nations at its centre and foundation, are widely recognized and constitute a major contribution to global peace, economic stability, social inclusion, equality, sustainable development and mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries.

3. We renew our openness to increasing engagement with other countries, particularly developing countries and emerging market economies, as well as with international and regional organizations, with a view to fostering cooperation and solidarity in our relations with all nations and peoples. To that effect, we will hold a joint session with the leaders of the South American nations, under the theme of the sixth BRICS summit, with a view to furthering cooperation between BRICS and South America. We reaffirm our support for the South American integration processes, and recognize in particular the importance of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in promoting peace and democracy in the region, and in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. We believe that strengthened dialogue among BRICS and South American countries can play an active role in enhancing multilateralism and international cooperation for the promotion of peace, security, economic and social progress and sustainable development in an interdependent and increasingly complex, globalizing world.

4. Since the inception of the group, the BRICS countries have been guided by the overarching objectives of peace, security, development and cooperation. In this new cycle, while remaining committed to those objectives, we pledge to deepen our partnership with a renewed vision, based on openness, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation. In this sense, we are ready to explore new areas towards a comprehensive cooperation and a closer economic partnership to facilitate market interlinkages, financial integration, infrastructure connectivity as well as people-to-people contacts.

5. The sixth summit takes place at a crucial juncture, as the international community assesses how to address the challenges of strong economic recovery from the global financial crises, sustainable development, including climate change, while also formulating the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, we are confronted with persistent political instability and conflict in various global hotspots

and non-conventional emerging threats. On the other hand, international governance structures designed within a different power configuration show increasingly evident signs of losing legitimacy and effectiveness, as transitional and ad hoc arrangements become increasingly prevalent, often at the expense of multilateralism. We believe the BRICS are an important force for incremental change and reform of current institutions towards more representative and equitable governance, capable of generating more inclusive global growth and fostering a stable, peaceful and prosperous world.

6. During the first cycle of BRICS summits, collectively, our economies have consolidated their position as the main engines for sustaining the pace of the international economy as it recovers from the recent economic and financial global crisis. The BRICS countries continue to contribute significantly to global growth and to the reduction of poverty in our own and other countries. Our economic growth and social inclusion policies have helped to stabilize the global economy, to foster the creation of jobs, to reduce poverty and to combat inequality, thus contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this new cycle, besides the contribution of the group in fostering strong, sustainable and balanced growth, BRICS countries will continue to play a significant role in promoting social development and in contributing to define the international agenda in this area, building on its experience in addressing the challenges of poverty and inequality.

7. To better reflect the advancement of the social policies of the BRICS and the positive impacts of its economic growth, we instruct our national institutes of statistics and the ministries of health and education to work on the development of joint methodologies for social indicators to be incorporated into the BRICS Joint Statistical Publication. We also encourage the BRICS Think Tanks Council to provide technical support in this task. We further request the BRICS national institutes of statistics to discuss the viability and feasibility of a platform for the development of such methodologies and to report thereon.

8. The world economy has strengthened, with signs of improvement in some advanced economies. Significant downside risks to this recovery remain, however. Unemployment and debt levels are worryingly high and growth remains weak in many advanced economies. Emerging market economies and developing countries continue to contribute significantly to global growth and will do so in the years to come. Even as the global economy strengthens, monetary policy settings in some advanced economies may bring renewed stress and volatility to financial markets and changes in monetary stance need to be carefully calibrated and clearly communicated in order to minimize negative spillovers.

9. Strong macroeconomic frameworks, well regulated financial markets and robust levels of reserves have allowed emerging market economies and developing countries in general, and the BRICS countries in particular, to better deal with the risks and spillovers presented by the challenging economic conditions in the past few years. Nevertheless, further macroeconomic coordination among all major economies, in particular in the Group of 20, remains a critical factor for strengthening the prospects for a vigorous and sustainable recovery worldwide. In this context, we reaffirm our strong commitment to continue working among ourselves and with the global community to foster financial stability, support sustainable, stronger and inclusive growth and promote quality jobs. The BRICS

countries stand ready to contribute to the Group of 20 goal of lifting our collective gross domestic product (GDP) by more than 2 per cent above the trajectory implied by current policies over the coming five years.

10. We commend Russia for the successful work during its presidency of the Group of 20 in 2013. The institution of the BRICS summits largely coincided with the beginning of the global crisis, the first summits of the Group of 20 and the consolidation of that Group as the premier forum for economic coordination among its members. As a new round of BRICS summits begins, we remain committed to delivering constructive responses to global economic and financial challenges and to serving as a strong voice for the promotion of sustainable development, inclusive growth, financial stability and of more representative international economic governance. We will continue to pursue our fruitful coordination and to promote our development goals within the international economic system and financial architecture.

11. BRICS countries, as well as other emerging market economies and developing countries, continue to face significant financing constraints in addressing infrastructure gaps and sustainable development needs. With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the signing of the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank, with the purpose of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging and developing economies. We appreciate the work undertaken by our finance ministers. Based on sound banking principles, the New Development Bank will strengthen the cooperation among our countries and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development, thus contributing to our collective commitments for achieving the goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

12. The Bank shall have an initial authorized capital of $100 billion. The initial subscribed capital shall be of $50 billion, equally shared among founding members. The first chair of the Board of Governors shall be from Russia. The first chair of the Board of Directors shall be from Brazil. The first President of the Bank shall be from India. The headquarters of the Bank shall be located in Shanghai. The Africa Regional Centre of the New Development Bank shall be established in South Africa, concurrently with the headquarters. We direct our finance ministers to work out the modalities for its operationalization.

13. We are pleased to announce the signing of the Treaty for the establishment of the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement with an initial size of $100 billion. This arrangement will have a positive precautionary effect, help countries forestall short-term liquidity pressures, promote further BRICS cooperation, strengthen the global financial safety net and complement existing international arrangements. We appreciate the work undertaken by our finance ministers and central bank governors. The Treaty is a framework for the provision of liquidity through currency swaps in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures.

14. We also welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding on cooperation among BRICS export credit and guarantees agencies that will improve the support environment for increasing trade opportunities among our nations.

15. We appreciate the progress our development banks have made in enhancing and strengthening the financial ties among BRICS countries. Given the importance

of adopting innovation initiatives, we welcome the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement on Innovation within the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.

16. We recognize that there is potential for BRICS insurance and reinsurance markets to pool capacities. We direct our relevant authorities to explore avenues of cooperation in this regard.

17. We believe that sustainable development and economic growth will be facilitated by taxation of revenue generated in jurisdictions where economic activity takes place. We express our concern over the harmful impact of tax evasion, transnational fraud and aggressive tax planning on the world economy. We are aware of the challenges brought by aggressive tax avoidance and non-compliance practices. We, therefore, affirm our commitment to continue a cooperative approach on issues related to tax administrations and to enhance cooperation in the international forums targeting tax base erosion and information exchange for tax purposes. We direct our relevant authorities to explore ways of enhancing cooperation in this area. We also direct our relevant authorities to strengthen cooperation in the field of customs.

18. We remain disappointed and seriously concerned with the current non-implementation of the 2010 International Monetary Fund (IMF) reforms, which negatively impacts on the legitimacy, credibility and effectiveness of IMF. The reform process is based on high-level commitments, which already strengthened the Fund's resources and must also lead to the modernization of its governance structure so as to better reflect the increasing weight of emerging market economies and developing countries in the world economy. The Fund must remain a quota-based institution. We call on the membership of IMF to find ways to implement the Fourteenth General Review of Quotas without further delay. We reiterate our call on IMF to develop options to move ahead with its reform process, with a view to ensuring increased voice and representation of emerging market economies and developing countries, in case the 2010 reforms are not entered into force by the end of the year. We also call on the membership of IMF to reach a final agreement on a new quota formula together with the Fifteenth General Review of Quotas so as not to further jeopardize the postponed deadline of January 2015.

19. We welcome the goals set by the World Bank Group to help countries end extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity. We recognize the potential of this new strategy in support of the fulfilment of these ambitious goals by the international community. This potential will only be realized, however, if the institution and its membership effectively move towards more democratic governance structures, strengthen the Bank's financial capacity and explore innovative ways to enhance development financing and knowledge-sharing while pursuing a strong client orientation that recognizes each country's development needs. We look forward to initiating the work on the next shareholding review at the World Bank as soon as possible in order to meet the agreed deadline of October 2015. In this sense, we call for an international financial architecture that is more conducive to overcoming development challenges. We have been very active in improving the international financial architecture through our multilateral coordination and through our financial cooperation initiatives, which will, in a complementary manner, increase the diversity and availability of resources for promoting development and ensuring stability in the global economy.

20. We are committed to raising our economic cooperation to a qualitatively new level. In order to achieve this, we emphasize the importance of establishing a road map for intra-BRICS economic cooperation. In this regard, we welcome the proposals for a "BRICS economic cooperation strategy" and a "Framework of BRICS closer economic partnership", which lay down steps to promote intra-BRICS economic, trade and investment cooperation. Based on the documents tabled and informed by the input of the BRICS Think Tanks Council, we instruct our sherpas to advance discussions with a view to submitting their proposal for endorsement by the next BRICS summit.

21. We believe all countries should enjoy due rights, equal opportunities and fair participation in global economic, financial and trade affairs, recognizing that countries have different capacities and are at different levels of development. We strive for an open world economy with efficient allocation of resources, free flow of goods and fair and orderly competition, to the benefit of all. In reaffirming our support for an open, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent and rule-based multilateral trading system, we will continue our efforts towards the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations (WTO), following the positive results of the Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013. In this context, we reaffirm our commitment to establish by the end of this year a post-Bali work programme for concluding the Doha Round, based on the progress already made and in keeping with the mandate established in the Doha Development Agenda. We affirm that this work programme should prioritize the issues where legally binding outcomes could not be achieved at the Ninth Ministerial Conference, including public stockholding for food security purposes. We look forward to the implementation of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. We call upon international partners to provide support to the poorest, most vulnerable WTO members in order to enable them to implement this Agreement, which should support their development objectives. We strongly support the dispute settlement system of WTO as a cornerstone of the security and predictability of the multilateral trading system and we will enhance our ongoing dialogue on substantive and practical matters relating to it, including in the ongoing negotiations on WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding reform. We recognize the importance of regional trade agreements, which should complement the multilateral trading system, and of keeping them open, inclusive and transparent, as well as refraining from introducing exclusive and discriminatory clauses and standards.

22. We reaffirm the mandate of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the focal point in the United Nations system dedicated to consider the interrelated issues of trade, investment, finance and technology from a development perspective. The mandate and work of UNCTAD are unique and necessary to deal with the challenges of development and growth in the increasingly interdependent global economy. In congratulating UNCTAD on the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, in 2014, which is also the anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77, we further reaffirm the importance of strengthening UNCTAD capacity to deliver on its programmes of consensus-building, policy dialogue, research, technical cooperation and capacity-building, so that it is better equipped to deliver on its development mandate.

23. We acknowledge the important role that state-owned companies play in the economy and encourage our state-owned companies to continue to explore ways of cooperation, exchange of information and best practices. We also recognize the

fundamental role played by small and medium-sized enterprises in the economies of our countries as major creators of jobs and wealth. We will enhance cooperation and recognize the need for strengthening intra-BRICS dialogue with a view to promoting international exchange and cooperation and to foster innovation, research and development.

24. We underline that 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the end of the Second World War. In this connection, we support the United Nations in initiating and organizing commemorative events to mark and pay tribute to these two historical moments in human history, and reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding a just and fair international order based on the Charter of the United Nations, maintaining world peace and security, as well as promoting human progress and development.

25. We reiterate our strong commitment to the United Nations as the fundamental multilateral organization entrusted with helping the international community maintain international peace and security, protect and foster human rights and promote sustainable development. The United Nations enjoys universal membership and is at the very centre of global governance and multilateralism. We recall the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1). We reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, so that it can adequately respond to global challenges. China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to Brazil, India and South Africa's status and role in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the United Nations.

26. We recall that development and security are closely interlinked, mutually reinforcing and key to attaining sustainable peace. We reiterate our view that the establishment of sustainable peace requires a comprehensive, concerted and determined approach, based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equity and cooperation, that addresses the root causes of conflicts, including their political, economic and social dimensions. In this context, we also stress the close interrelation between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We also highlight the importance of bringing gender perspectives to conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

27. We will continue our joint efforts in coordinating positions and acting on shared interests on global peace and security issues for the common well-being of humanity. We stress our commitment to the sustainable and peaceful settlement of disputes, according to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. We condemn unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions in violation of international law and universally recognized norms of international relations. Bearing this in mind, we emphasize the unique importance of the indivisible nature of security, and that no State should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others.

28. We agree to continue to treat all human rights, including the right to development, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. We will foster dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect in the field of human rights, both within BRICS and in multilateral forums, including the Human Rights Council, where all BRICS countries serve as members in 2014, taking into account the necessity to promote, protect and fulfil

human rights in a non-selective, non-politicized and constructive manner, and without double standards.

29. We commend the efforts made by the United Nations, the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), among others, in support for the realization of legislative and presidential elections in Guinea-Bissau, paving the way for the return to constitutional democracy in the country. We recognize the importance of promoting long-term political stability in Guinea-Bissau, which necessarily encompasses measures to reduce food insecurity and to advance a comprehensive security sector reform, as proposed by the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. Similarly, we also welcome the efforts of the United Nations, African Union and Southern African Development Community (SADC) in support of legislative and presidential elections in Madagascar, assisting in the return of constitutional democracy to the country.

30. We commend the efforts of the international community in addressing instability in Africa through engagement with, and coordination by, the African Union and its Peace and Security Council. We express our deep concern at the deterioration of the security and the humanitarian situation in West Africa. We call upon all parties in these conflicts to cease hostilities, exercise restraint and engage in dialogue in order to ensure a return to peace and stability. However, we also note the progress that has been made in areas of the region in addressing political and security challenges.

31. We also express our concern regarding the plight of the abducted women and children of Chibok and call for an end to the continued terrorist acts perpetrated by Boko Haram.

32. We support the efforts of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) in its task to help the Government of Mali fully stabilize the country, facilitate national political dialogue, protect civilians, monitor the human rights situation, create conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced persons, and extend State authority throughout the whole country. We emphasize the importance of an inclusive political process; the immediate implementation of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process; and political, economic and social development in order for Mali to achieve sustainable peace and stability.

33. We express our concern about the ongoing political and humanitarian crises in South Sudan. We condemn the continuation of violence against civilians and call upon all parties to ensure a safe environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We also condemn the continuation of confrontations despite the successive commitments to the cessation of hostilities and express our belief that a sustainable solution to the crisis is only possible through an inclusive political dialogue aimed at national reconciliation. We support, in this regard, the regional efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, especially the mediation process led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). We welcome the agreement to resolve the crisis in South Sudan, signed on 9 May, and expect the political leaders of South Sudan to remain committed to the negotiation process and to the completion of dialogue on the formation of a transitional government of national unity within 60 days, as announced by IGAD on June 10. We commend the efforts of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to fulfil its mandate and

express our deep concern about the armed attacks that were led against United Nations bases in the country.

34. We reiterate our grave concern regarding the situation in the Central African Republic. We strongly condemn the abuses and acts of violence against the civilian population, including sectarian violence, and urge all armed groups to cease hostilities immediately. We recognize the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the African Union to restore peace and stability in the country. We commend the establishment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). We express our support for a successful transition from the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) to MINUSCA by 15 September 2014. We urge the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic to adhere strictly to the N'Djamena road map. We call upon all parties to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access to those in need. We reaffirm our readiness to work with the international community to assist the Central African Republic in accelerating the implementation of the political process of the country.

35. We support the efforts by the United Nations, in particular by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), deployed under Security Council resolution 2098 (2013), and the regional and subregional organizations to bring peace and stability to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and we call upon all involved to honour their obligations in order to achieve lasting peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

36. We welcome the decision by the African Union, at its summit in Malabo, to establish an interim African capacity for immediate response to crises by October 2014 to respond quickly to crisis situations as they arise. We stress the importance of adequate support to ensure the timely operationalization of the interim African capacity, pending the final establishment of the African Standby Force.

37. We express deep concern about the ongoing violence and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria and condemn the increasing violations of human rights by all parties. We reiterate our view that there is no military solution to the conflict and highlight the need to avoid its further militarization. We call upon all parties to commit immediately to a complete ceasefire, to halt violence and to allow and facilitate immediate, safe, full and unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations and agencies, in compliance with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014). We recognize practical steps undertaken by the Syrian parties in implementing its requirements, including the practice of local ceasefire agreements reached between the Syrian authorities and the opposition forces. We reiterate our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it occurs. We are gravely concerned at the continued threat of terrorism and extremism in Syria. We call on all Syrian parties to commit to putting an end to terrorist acts perpetrated by Al-Qaida, its affiliates and other terrorist organizations. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons in any circumstances. We welcome the decision of the Syrian Arab Republic to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention. In accordance with related decisions of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), we reiterate the importance of the complete

removal and elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons. We commend the progress in that regard and welcome the announcement that the removal of declared chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic was completed. We call on all Syrian parties and interested external actors with relevant capabilities to work closely together and with OPCW and the United Nations to arrange for the security of the monitoring and destruction mission in its final stage. We support the mediation role played by the United Nations. We appreciate the contribution made by former Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, and welcome the appointment of Staffan De Mistura as Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, and express our hope for his active efforts to promote an early resumption of comprehensive negotiations. We recall that national dialogue and reconciliation are key to the political solution for the Syrian crisis. We take note of the recent Syrian presidential elections. We stress that only an inclusive political process, led by the Syrians, as recommended in the Final Communiqué of the Action Group for Syria, of 2012, will lead to peace, the effective protection of civilians, the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian society for freedom and prosperity and respect for Syrian independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. We emphasize that a national reconciliation process needs to be launched as early as possible, in the interest of the national unity of Syria. To that end, we urge all parties in Syria to demonstrate political will, enhance mutual understanding, exercise restraint and commit to seeking common ground in accommodating their differences.

38. We reaffirm our commitment to contribute to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the universally recognized international legal framework, including the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. We believe that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a fundamental component for building a sustainable peace in the Middle East. We call upon Israel and Palestine to resume negotiations leading to a two-State solution with a contiguous and economically viable Palestinian State existing side by side in peace with Israel, within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders based on the 4 June 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital. We oppose the continuous construction and expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by the Israeli Government, which violates international law, gravely undermines peace efforts and threatens the viability of the two-State solution. We welcome recent efforts to achieve intra-Palestinian unity, including the formation of a national unity government and steps towards conducting general elections, which is a key element to consolidate a democratic and sustainable Palestinian State, and call on the parties to fully commit to the obligations assumed by Palestine. We call on the Security Council to fully exercise its functions under the Charter with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We recall with satisfaction the decision of the General Assembly to proclaim 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (General Assembly resolution 68/12), welcome the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in providing assistance and protection for Palestine refugees and encourage the international community to continue to support the activities of the agency.

39. We express our support for the convening, at the earliest possible date, of a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other

weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We call upon all States of the region to attend the conference and to engage constructively and in a pragmatic manner with a view to advancing that goal.

40. Noting the open-ended consultations on a draft international code of conduct on outer space activities, and the active and constructive engagement of our countries in these consultations, we call for an inclusive and consensus-based multilateral negotiation to be conducted within the framework of the United Nations, without specific deadlines, in order to reach a balanced outcome that addresses the needs and reflects the concerns of all participants. Reaffirming our will that the exploration and use of outer space shall be for peaceful purposes, we stress that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remain a priority task of the Conference on Disarmament, and welcome the introduction by China and Russia of the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects.

41. While reiterating our view that there is no alternative to a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, we reaffirm our support to its resolution through political and diplomatic means and dialogue. In this context, we welcome the positive momentum generated by talks between Iran and the E3+3 [France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland plus China, the Russian Federation and the United States of America] and encourage the thorough implementation of the joint plan of action drawn up in Geneva, on 24 November 2013, with a view to achieving a comprehensive and long-lasting solution to this issue. We also encourage Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to continue strengthening their cooperation and dialogue on the basis of the joint statement signed on 11 November 2013. We recognize Iran's inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a manner consistent with its international obligations.

42. Recognizing that peace, security and development are closely interlinked, we reaffirm that Afghanistan needs time, development assistance and cooperation, preferential access to world markets and foreign investment in order to attain lasting peace and stability. We support the commitment of the international community to remain engaged in Afghanistan during the transformation decade (2015-2024), as enunciated at the International Afghanistan Conference, held in Bonn in December 2011. We stress that the United Nations should play an increasingly important role in assisting Afghanistan's national reconciliation, recovery and economic reconstruction. We also reaffirm our commitment to support Afghanistan's emergence as a peaceful, stable and democratic State, free of terrorism and extremism, and underscore the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilization of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism. We extend support to the efforts aimed at combating illicit traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan within the framework of the Paris Pact. We expect a broad-based and inclusive peace process in Afghanistan, which is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. We welcome the second round of the presidential elections in Afghanistan, which contribute to the democratic transfer of power in the country. We welcome China's offer to host the fourth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in August 2014.

43. We are deeply concerned by the situation in Iraq. We strongly support the Iraqi Government in its effort to overcome the crisis and uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We are concerned about spillover effects of the instability in Iraq resulting from increased terrorist activities in the region and urge all parties to address the terrorist threat in a consistent manner. We urge all regional and global players to refrain from interference that will further deepen the crisis and to support the Iraqi Government and the people of Iraq in their efforts to overcome the crisis and build a stable, inclusive and united Iraq. We emphasize the importance of national reconciliation and unity in Iraq, taking into consideration the wars and conflicts the Iraqi people have suffered and in this context we commend the peaceful and orderly holding of the latest parliamentary elections.

44. We express our deep concern at the situation in Ukraine. We call for a comprehensive dialogue, the de-escalation of the conflict and restraint from all the actors involved, with a view to finding a peaceful political solution, in full compliance with the Charter and universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

45. We reaffirm our commitment to continue to tackle transnational organized crime, with full respect for human rights, in order to reduce the negative impact it has on individuals and societies. We encourage joint efforts aimed at preventing and combating transnational criminal activities in accordance with national legislations and international legal instruments, especially the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In this regard, we welcome BRICS cooperation in multilateral forums, highlighting our engagement in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

46. Piracy and armed robbery at sea are complex phenomena that must be fought effectively in a comprehensive and integrated manner. We welcome the efforts made by the international community to counter maritime piracy and call upon all stakeholders, civilian and military, public and private, to remain engaged in the fight against this phenomenon. We also highlight the need for a transparent and objective review of the High Risk Area, with a view to avoiding unnecessary negative effects on the economy and security of coastal States. We commit to strengthen our cooperation on this serious issue.

47. We are deeply concerned by the world drug problem, which continues to threaten public health, safety and well-being and to undermine social, economic and political stability and sustainable development. We are committed to countering the world drug problem, which remains a common and shared responsibility, through an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies, in line with the three drug conventions of the United Nations and other relevant norms and principles of international law. We welcome the substantive work done by Russia in preparing and hosting the international meeting of ministers on 15 May 2014 to discuss the world drug problem. We take note of the proposal for the creation of an anti-drug working group presented at the second meeting of BRICS heads of drug control agencies.

48. We reiterate our strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any acts of terrorism, whether based upon ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or any other justification. We call upon all entities to refrain from financing, encouraging, providing training for or otherwise supporting terrorist activities. We

believe that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism, which must be conducted in accordance with international law, including the Charter, and with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this context, we reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We express our concern at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet and other media, and reiterate that such technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance and dialogue among peoples. We will continue to work together to conclude negotiations as soon as possible and to adopt in the General Assembly a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. We also stress the need to promote cooperation among our countries in preventing terrorism, especially in the context of major events.

49. We believe that information and communications technologies should provide instruments to foster sustainable economic progress and social inclusion, working together with the information and communications technology industry, civil society and academia in order to realize the potential opportunities and benefits of information and communications technologies for all. We agree that particular attention should be given to young people and to small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to promoting international exchange and cooperation, as well as to fostering innovation, research and development in information and communications technologies. We agree that the use and development of information and communications technologies through international cooperation and universally accepted norms and principles of international law is of paramount importance in order to ensure a peaceful, secure and open digital and Internet space. We strongly condemn acts of mass electronic surveillance and data collection of individuals all over the world, as well as violation of the sovereignty of States and of human rights, in particular the right to privacy. We take note of the Global Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, held in São Paulo, on 23 and 24 April 2014. We thank Brazil for having organized it.

50. We will explore cooperation on combating cybercrimes and we also recommit to the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument in that field. We consider that the United Nations has a central role in this matter. We agree it is necessary to preserve information and communications technologies, particularly the Internet, as an instrument of peace and development and to prevent its use as a weapon. Moreover, we commit ourselves to working together in order to identify possibilities for developing joint activities to address common security concerns in the use of information and communications technologies. We reiterate the common approach set forth in the eThekwini Declaration about the importance of security in the use of information and communications technologies. We welcome the decision of the national security advisers to establish a group of experts from BRICS member States which will elaborate practical proposals concerning major fields of cooperation and coordinate our positions in international forums. Bearing in mind the significance of these issues, we take note of Russia's proposal of a BRICS agreement on cooperation in this field to be jointly elaborated.

51. We reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its protocols, with special attention to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We recognize the challenge posed by the agreed targets on conservation of biodiversity and reaffirm

the need to implement the decisions on resource mobilization agreed to by all parties in Hyderabad in 2012, and set resource mobilization targets that are ambitious in order to allow for their fulfilment.

52. Acknowledging that climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humankind, we call on all countries to build upon the decisions adopted in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a view to reaching a successful conclusion, by 2015, of negotiations on the development of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention, applicable to all Parties, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Framework Convention, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this regard, we reiterate our support to the presidency of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Lima, in December 2014. We also note the convening of the Climate Summit, to be held in September 2014.

53. While bearing in mind that fossil fuel remains one of the major sources of energy, we reiterate our belief that renewable and clean energy, research and development of new technologies and energy efficiency, can constitute an important driver to promote sustainable development, create new economic growth, reduce energy costs and increase efficiency in the use of natural resources. Considering the dynamic link between renewable and clean energy and sustainable development, we reaffirm the importance of continuing international efforts aimed at promoting the deployment of renewable and clean energy and energy-efficient technologies, taking into account national policies, priorities and resources. We stand for strengthening international cooperation to promote renewable and clean energy and to universalize energy access, which is of great importance to improving the standard of living of our peoples.

54. We are committed to working towards an inclusive, transparent and participative intergovernmental process for building a universal and integrated development agenda, with poverty eradication as the central and overarching objective. The agenda should integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and comprehensive manner with concise, implementable and measurable goals, taking into account differing national realities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. The post-2015 development agenda must also be based on and fully respect all Rio principles on sustainable development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We welcome the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (General Assembly resolution 68/6), in which the General Assembly decided to launch an intergovernmental process at the beginning of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly that will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

55. We reiterate our commitment to the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and to working together to achieve a consensual and ambitious proposal on sustainable development goals. We emphasize the importance of the work by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and highlight the need for an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of

resources in achieving sustainable development objectives and supporting developing countries in the implementation efforts, with official development assistance as a major source of financing. We support the creation of a facilitation mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies and call for the establishment of a working group within the United Nations on this proposal, taking into account the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex) and the reports of the Secretary-General on the issue. In this regard, we reaffirm that the outcome of each of these processes can contribute to the formulation of sustainable development goals.

56. We recognize the strategic importance of education for sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. We reaffirm our commitment to accelerating progress in attaining the Education for All goals and education-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and stress that the development agenda beyond 2015 should build on these goals to ensure equitable, inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all. We are willing to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation in the area and welcome the meeting of ministers of education held in Paris in November 2013. We intend to continue cooperation with relevant international organizations. We encourage the initiative to establish the BRICS network university.

57. In March 2014 we agreed to collaborate through dialogue, cooperation, the sharing of experiences and capacity-building on population-related matters of mutual concern to member States. We recognize the vital importance of the demographic dividend that many of us possess to advance our sustainable development as well as the need to integrate population factors into national development plans, and to promote a long-term balanced population and development. The demographic transition and post-transition challenges, including population ageing and mortality reduction, are among the most important challenges facing the world today. We confirm our strong commitment to address social issues in general and in particular gender inequality, women's rights and issues facing young people and we reaffirm our determination to ensure sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for all.

58. We recognize that corruption negatively affects sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and financial stability. We are committed to combat domestic and foreign bribery and strengthen international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, in accordance with multilaterally established principles and norms, especially the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

59. Considering the link between culture and sustainable development, as well as the role of cultural diplomacy as a promoter of understanding between peoples, we will encourage cooperation between BRICS countries in the cultural sector, including on a multilateral basis. Recognizing the contribution and the benefits of cultural exchanges and cooperation in enhancing our mutual understanding and friendship, we will actively promote greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of each other's arts and culture. In this regard, we ask our relevant authorities responsible for culture to explore areas of practical cooperation, including to expedite negotiations on the draft agreement on cultural cooperation.

60. We are pleased with the progress in implementing the eThekwini Action Plan, which further enhanced our cooperation and unleashed greater potential for our

development. In this regard, we commend South Africa for the full implementation of the eThekwini Action Plan.

61. We are committed to promoting agricultural cooperation and to exchange information regarding strategies for ensuring access to food for the most vulnerable population, the reduction of the negative impact of climate change on food security and the adaptation of agriculture to climate change. We recall with satisfaction the decision of the General Assembly to declare 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (General Assembly resolution 66/222).

62. We take note of the following meetings, which were held in preparation for this Summit:

(a) Third BRICS Think Tanks Council;

(b) Third BRICS Business Council;

(c) Sixth academic forum;

(d) Fifth business forum;

(e) Fourth financial forum.

63. We welcome the outcomes of the meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors and endorse the joint communiqué of the meeting of BRICS trade ministers held in preparation for the summit.

64. The fifth edition of the BRICS business forum provided an opportunity for match-making and for in-depth discussion of highly relevant issues of the trade and investment agenda. We welcome the meeting of the BRICS Business Council and commend it for its annual report 2013/2014. We encourage the respective business communities to follow up on the initiatives proposed and to deepen dialogue and cooperation in the five areas dealt with by the industry/sector working groups with a view to intensifying trade and investment flows among BRICS countries as well as between BRICS countries and other partners around the world.

65. We reiterate our commitment, made during the BRICS Leaders-Africa retreat at the fifth BRICS summit, to foster and develop BRICS-Africa cooperation in support of the socioeconomic development of Africa, particularly with regard to infrastructure development and industrialization. We welcome the inclusion of these issues in discussions during the meeting of the BRICS Business Council, held in Johannesburg in August 2013.

66. We welcome the study of the BRICS Think Tank Council, entitled "Towards a long-term strategy for BRICS: recommendations by the BRICS Think Tank Council". We acknowledge the decision taken by the Think Tank Council, taken at its meeting in Rio de Janeiro in March 2014, to focus its work on the five pillars upon which the long-term strategy for BRICS cooperation will rest. The Think Tank Council is encouraged to develop strategic pathways and action plans that will lead to the realization of this long-term strategy.

67. We welcome the holding of the first Meeting of BRICS ministers of science, technology and innovation and the Cape Town Declaration, which is aimed at: (a) strengthening cooperation in science, technology and innovation; (b) addressing common global and regional socioeconomic challenges, utilizing shared experiences and complementarities; (c) co-generating new knowledge and innovative products,

services and processes, utilizing appropriate funding and investment instruments; and (d) promoting, where appropriate, joint BRICS partnerships with other strategic actors in the developing world. We instruct the BRICS ministers of science and technology to sign, at their next meeting, the memorandum of understanding on science, technology and innovation, which provides a strategic framework for cooperation in this field.

68. We welcome the establishment of the BRICS Information Sharing and Exchange Platform, which seeks to facilitate trade and investment cooperation.

69. We will continue to improve competition policy and enforcement, undertake actions to address challenges that BRICS competition authorities face and further enable competitive environments in order to enhance contributions to economic growth in our economies. We note South Africa's offer to host the fourth meeting of BRICS competition authorities in 2015.

70. We reiterate our commitment to fostering our partnership for common development. To this end, we adopt the Fortaleza Action Plan.

71. Russia, India, China and South Africa extend their warm appreciation to the Government and people of Brazil for hosting the sixth BRICS summit in Fortaleza.

72. Brazil, India, China and South Africa convey their appreciation to Russia for its offer to host the seventh BRICS summit in 2015, in the city of Ufa, and extend their full support to that end.

Fortaleza Action Plan

1. Meeting of BRICS ministers for foreign affairs/international relations on the margins of the General Assembly.
2. Meeting of BRICS national security advisers.
3. Midterm meeting of BRICS sherpas and sous-sherpas.
4. Meetings of BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors on the margins of meetings of the Group of 20, World Bank/IMF meetings, as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.
5. Meetings of BRICS trade ministers on the margin of multilateral events, or stand-alone meetings, as required.
6. Meeting of BRICS ministers of agriculture and agrarian development, preceded by the meeting of the BRICS agricultural cooperation working group.
7. Meeting of BRICS health ministers.
8. Meeting of BRICS ministers of science, technology and innovation.
9. Meeting of BRICS ministers of education.
10. Meeting of ministers or senior officials responsible for social security, on the margins of a multilateral meeting.
11. BRICS seminar of officials and experts on population matters.
12. Meeting of BRICS cooperatives (held in Curitiba from 14 to 16 May 2014).

13. Meetings of financial and fiscal authorities on the margins of World Bank/IMF meetings as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.

14. Meetings of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues.

15. Meeting of the BRICS friendship cities and local governments cooperation forum.

16. Meeting of the BRICS urbanization forum.

17. Meeting of BRICS competition authorities in 2015 in South Africa.

18. Meeting of BRICS heads of national statistical institutions.

19. Meeting of anti-drug experts.

20. Meeting of BRICS experts on anti-corruption cooperation, on the margins of a multilateral meeting.

21. Consultations among BRICS permanent missions and/or embassies, as appropriate, in New York, Vienna, Rome, Paris, Washington, D.C., Nairobi and Geneva, where appropriate.

22. Consultative meeting of BRICS senior officials on the margins of relevant sustainable development, environment and climate-related international forums, where appropriate.

23. Sports and mega sporting events.

New areas of cooperation to be explored

- Mutual recognition of higher education degrees and diplomas;
- Labour and employment, social security and social inclusion public policies;
- Foreign policy planning dialogue;
- Insurance and reinsurance;
- Seminar of experts on e-commerce.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/68/L.56

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. Draft resolution A/68/L.56, on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, responds to General Assembly resolution 68/237, in which the Assembly established the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme "People of African descent: recognition, justice and development", to be launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, and to that end emphasizing the opportunity to achieve important synergy in combating all the scourges of racism through the effective observance of the Decade, and in that regard contributing to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

2. The General Assembly would also recall paragraph 61 of its resolution 66/144, by which it encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with a view to proclaiming an International Decade for People of African Descent before the end of 2013.

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II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

3. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of draft resolution A/68/L.56, the General Assembly would:

(a) Adopt the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent as annexed to the draft resolution (operative paragraph 1);

(b) Decide to appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as coordinator of the Decade in order to follow up on the implementation of activities in the framework of the Decade (operative paragraph 3);

(c) Request the Secretary-General to submit annually a progress report on the implementation of the activities of the Decade (operative paragraph 5);

(d) Request the Secretary-General to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget of the United Nations for the effective implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade, and invite Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for that purpose (operative paragraph 6);

(e) Request the President of the General Assembly to convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions before the seventy-fourth session (operative paragraph 7);

(f) Request the Secretary-General to convene a final assessment of the Decade in the framework of a high-level international event to mark the closure of the Decade (operative paragraph 8);

(g) Decide to launch the Decade in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/237 immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session, with the requisite global visibility and appropriate profiling, whose modalities shall be coordinated by the President of the Assembly in consultation with Member States (operative paragraph 9).

4. Under the terms of paragraphs 29 (a), (b), (c), (f), (g), (i), (j), (l), (m) and (n) of the annex to draft resolution A/68/L.56, the General Assembly would:

(a) Appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as coordinator of the Decade in order to follow up on the implementation of activities in the framework of the Decade (paragraph 29 (a));

(b) Request the Secretary-General to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of activities of the Decade, taking into account information and views provided by States, relevant human rights bodies, organs and mechanisms of the United Nations and its funds and programmes, specialized agencies and international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations, including organizations of people of African descent, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders (paragraph 29 (b));

(c) Request the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and regional and subregional organizations to launch an awareness-raising campaign to inform the general public of the history, contributions, including to the global

development, challenges, contemporary experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent (paragraph 29 (c));

(d) Request OHCHR to continue and strengthen its fellowship programme for people of African descent during the Decade (paragraph 29 (f));

(e) Request OHCHR to include a section on the Decade in the anti-discrimination database (paragraph 29 (g));

(f) Decide to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism, to be provided by one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent or the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in that regard request the Human Rights Council to allocate two or three days of one of the annual sessions of those mechanisms to be devoted to that purpose and to ensure the inclusive participation of all States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, civil society organizations of people of African descent and all other relevant stakeholders (paragraph 29 (i));

(g) Request the High Commissioner to further increase and strengthen support for the relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of the Decade (paragraph 29 (j));

(h) Request the Secretary-General to accord high priority to executing the programme of activities for the Decade and to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations to the effective implementation of the programme of action and activities of the Decade (paragraph 29 (l));

(i) Keep the Decade under review and convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions (paragraph 29 (m));

(j) Convene a final assessment of the Decade, to be held within the framework of a high-level international event, marking the closure of the Decade (paragraph 29 (n)).

III. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

5. The requested activities relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; programme 20, Human rights; and programme 24, Public information, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2014-2015. They also fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; and section 28, Public information, of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

A. Annual progress report on the implementation of activities

6. Pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, an annual progress report on the implementation of the activities of the Decade will be issued for 10 years starting from 2015. It is envisaged that the annual report will be issued in all six official languages and will constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

B. Awareness-raising campaign to inform the general public of the history, contributions, experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent

7. Pursuant to paragraph 29 (c) of the annex to the draft resolution, the Department of Public Information, in collaboration with UNESCO, OHCHR and relevant regional and subregional organizations, will launch an awareness-raising campaign to inform the general public of the history, contributions, including to the global development, challenges, contemporary experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent. The campaign will include the production and dissemination of multimedia, social media and print materials, including the creation and maintenance of website in all official languages. The United Nations information centres, the field-based OHCHR offices and relevant regional and subregional organizations will also be used to disseminate information to the general public.

8. OHCHR will support the awareness-raising campaign through the organization of one workshop per biennium in each of the five regions (Latin America in 2015, Europe and Central Asia in 2017, Africa in 2019, the Middle East in 2021 and Asia in 2023) in order to address the three sub-themes outlined in the theme for the Decade of "recognition", "justice" and "development". The regional workshops will be aimed at strengthening national, regional and international cooperation and facilitating the exchange of good practices, while also promoting a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent. Such activities would require the travel of experts and stakeholders as well as the publication of various awareness-raising materials, such as research-based publications on the thematic issues and informative audiovisual materials.

9. It is envisaged that the regional workshops will be of two days' duration, each of which would require meetings services with interpretation and pre-session, in-session and post-session documentation, and will constitute an addition to the workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

C. Strengthening of the fellowship programme for people of African descent

10. Pursuant to paragraph 29 (f) of the annex to the draft resolution, OHCHR will strengthen its fellowship programme for people of African descent by providing two fellows from each of the five geographical regions mentioned in paragraph 8 above with an intensive learning opportunity to deepen their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, instruments and mechanisms, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent. A three-week-long programme designed specifically for the Decade is envisaged to be held in Geneva, whereby OHCHR staff will present information on international human rights law, the United

Nations human rights system (including the treaty bodies, the special procedures and the Human Rights Council) and the various mechanisms related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. They will also present case studies on relevant topics. A special segment of the fellowship will focus on the development of such skills as developing project proposals and delivering presentations. The programme will also enable fellows to gain first-hand knowledge about the mechanisms by observing ongoing deliberations within such mechanisms during the period of the fellowship programme. In particular, the programme will be synchronized with the annual session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent so that fellows will be able to participate in and contribute to the session. At the end of the fellowship, the fellows will develop presentations on topics related to people of African descent.

11. The fellowship programme will allow the participants to better contribute to the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent in their respective countries. It is expected that increased outreach of the programme across all regions will greatly enhance the objective of the Decade of promoting the rights of people of African descent. This will entail the practical application of the knowledge gained during the fellowship for tangible impact in the respective countries of the fellows, such as in enhancing the development of legislation, policies and programmes and strengthening the collaboration of civil society with Governments, as well as undertaking local awareness-raising activities at the national level. The fellows will also become resource persons for the Decade in their countries.

D. Establishment of a forum

12. Pursuant to paragraph 29 (i) of the annex to the draft resolution, a forum is envisaged as an inclusive consultative platform with a view to achieving better synergy, coordination and complementarity on issues related to people of African descent during the Decade. It will include the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, United Nations funds and programmes, civil society organizations of people of African descent and all other relevant stakeholders. It will establish and enhance dialogue among the various stakeholders, forge practically oriented cooperation and will allow for addressing more efficiently the urgent needs of people of African descent. It will also facilitate the mainstreaming of the Decade's objectives in the work of the United Nations system.

13. The forum will be held during the regularly scheduled meetings of one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms. It is envisaged that the Human Rights Council will decide to allocate two or three days of one of the annual meetings of the mechanism for the purpose of the forum. Accordingly, there will be no additional requirements for meetings services. Furthermore, it is envisaged that an annual report will be issued in all six official languages of the United Nations for 10 years beginning in 2015, which will constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

E. Launch, midterm review and final assessment of the Decade

14. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the draft resolution, the launch, midterm review and final assessment are the key benchmarks of the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the Decade. The launch of the Decade will not only serve

as a symbolic activity, but will also provide guidance and be the impetus for all concerned stakeholders to develop and carry out activities at the national, regional and international levels. The midterm review is vital for assessing the effectiveness of the programme of activities of the Decade in terms of its implementation and challenges during the first five years and, based on the assessment, generating improvements in the activities and programmes planned for the next five years. The final assessment will provide guidance to the various existing mechanisms and all stakeholders, including concrete recommendations for future courses of action to ensure the continued protection and promotion of the rights of people of African descent after the conclusion of the Decade.

15. In the absence of specific requirements and on the basis of experience with similar events, it is estimated that provisions for a one-day launch of the Decade, a two-day midterm review conference and a one-day high-level event for the final assessment will be required.

16. Pursuant to operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, the one-day launch of the Decade will be held in New York immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and the modalities shall be coordinated by the President of the Assembly in consultation with Member States. The meetings-servicing requirements will be covered within the entitlements of the General Assembly on the understanding that there will be no parallel meetings and that the dates and timing of the meetings will be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

17. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, the two-day midterm review conference and the one-day high-level event for the final assessment are envisaged to be held in New York in 2020 and 2024, respectively. The meetings-servicing requirements will be covered within the entitlements of the General Assembly on the understanding that there will be no parallel meetings and, that the dates and timing of the meetings will be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

18. In addition, it is envisaged that one report each for the midterm review (in 2020) and the final assessment (in 2024) will be issued in all six official languages and will constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

V. Estimated resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

Additional resource requirements

19. Pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, an annual progress report on the implementation of the activities of the Decade will be issued for 10 years starting from 2015. It is envisaged that the annual report will consist of 8,500 words and be issued in all six official languages. This will entail additional requirements in the amount of $35,100 for the annual progress report each year from 2015 to 2024.

20. Pursuant to paragraph 29 (c) of the annex to the draft resolution, five regional workshops will be held requiring conference services. It is envisaged that each workshop will be of two days' duration, with interpretation and documentation as follows:

(a) The workshop in Latin America will be held in 2015, with interpretation in English, French and Spanish ($55,600), a pre-session document consisting of 8,500 words ($14,400) to be issued in English, French and Spanish, three in-session documents totalling 200 words ($3,200) to be issued in English, French and Spanish and a post-session document of 8,500 words to be issued in all six official languages ($30,900);

(b) The workshop in Europe and Central Asia will be held in 2017, with interpretation in English, French, Russian and Spanish ($65,400), a pre-session document consisting of 8,500 words ($20,100) to be issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish, three in-session documents totalling 200 words ($3,300) to be issued in English, French, Russian and Spanish and a post-session document of 8,500 words to be issued in six languages ($30,900);

(c) The workshop in Africa will be held in 2019, with interpretation in Arabic, English, French and Spanish ($61,900), a pre-session document consisting of 8,500 words ($20,100) to be issued in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, three in-session documents totalling 200 words ($3,400) to be issued in Arabic, English, French and Spanish and a post-session document of 8,500 words to be issued in six languages ($30,900);

(d) The workshop in the Middle East will be held in 2021, with interpretation in Arabic, English and French ($37,500), a pre-session document consisting of 8,500 words ($14,300) to be issued in Arabic, English and French, three in-session documents totalling 200 words ($3,200) to be issued in Arabic, English and French and a post-session document of 8,500 words to be issued in six languages ($30,900);

(e) The workshop in Asia will be held in 2023, with interpretation in Chinese, English and Russian ($49,100), a pre-session document consisting of 8,500 words ($14,000) to be issued in Chinese, English and Russian, three in-session documents totalling 200 words ($2,900) to be issued in Chinese, English and Russian and a post-session document of 8,500 words to be issued in six languages ($30,900).

21. Pursuant to paragraph 29 (i) of the annex to the draft resolution, an annual report for the forum will be issued in all six languages for 10 years starting in 2015. It is envisaged that the annual report will consist of 12,750 words, which will entail additional requirements in the amount of $52,600 for the annual report each year from 2015 to 2024.

22. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that one report consisting of 8,500 words each for the midterm review and the final assessment will be issued in all six official languages, which will entail additional requirements in the amount of $35,100 each in 2020 and 2024.

23. Table 1 below summarizes the conference-servicing requirements under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and

conference management, of the programme budget for the period from 2015 to 2024.

Table 1
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
(United States dollars)

	2014-2015 (1 year)	*2016-2017 (2 years)*	*2018-2025 (7 years)*	*Total*
Interpretation	55 600	65 400	148 500	269 500
Pre-session documentation	100 100	191 500	716 900	1 008 500
In-session documentation	3 200	3 300	9 500	16 000
Post-session documentation	30 900	30 900	92 700	154 500
Other requirements	2 000	4 000	15 600	21 600
Total, section 2	**191 800**	**295 100**	**983 200**	**1 470 100**

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

24. Pursuant to operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the President of the Assembly to convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions before its seventy-fourth session. As the modalities of the midterm review are not clear, it is not possible, at this stage, to determine the requirement on behalf of the President. As soon as specific decisions on the modalities are determined, the matter will be reported to the Assembly in accordance with rule 153 of its rules of procedure.

Section 24, Human rights

Posts

25. It is estimated that additional post resources will be required under section 24, Human rights, for a duration of 10 years from 2015 to 2025 covering six bienniums (2014-2015 to 2024-2025), consisting of one P-4 Coordinator ($1,963,000), one P-3 Human Rights Officer ($1,637,000) and one General Service (Other level) Administrative Assistant ($1,311,000), for a total cost of $4,911,000, to provide the technical, substantive and secretariat support necessary to implement the activities of the decade-long programme.

General temporary assistance

26. In addition, general temporary assistance resources in the estimated amount of $40,926 will be required for one P-3 for three months from 1 January 2015 to implement the request contained in paragraph 29 (g) of the annex to the draft resolution to include a section in the anti-discrimination database on the Decade.

Travel of representatives

27. It is estimated that non-recurrent resources in the amount of $912,300 will be required under section 24, Human rights, in accordance with operative paragraphs 1, 7, 8 and 9 of the draft resolution to provide for the travel of the Chairs, experts and stakeholders.

28. In order to cover airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses of the four Chairs of the Durban follow-up mechanisms for the launch, midterm review and final assessment of the Decade programme, it is estimated that $63,300 will be required for two trips of three days each to New York for the launch (2015) and for the final assessment of the programme (2024). The midterm review conference (2020) will consist of one trip to New York for four days.

29. In order to cover airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, it is estimated that $339,000 will be required for a trip (1 per biennium) to each of the five regions to conduct workshops of two days each for 15 experts and stakeholders as part of the awareness-raising campaign to promote the wide dissemination of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and to inform the general public of the history and contributions, including to the global development, challenges, contemporary experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent.

30. In order to cover airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, it is estimated that $510,000 will be required over the duration of the decade for the travel of five experts from the regions, one Special Rapporteur and one member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to participate in an annual three-day forum for people of African descent to serve as a consultation mechanism for States, civil society organizations of people of African descent and other stakeholders, to be held during the second yearly session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

31. A breakdown per biennium for the travel of representatives for the launch, midterm review, final assessment and the five regional workshops and forum is provided in the annex.

Travel of staff

32. In addition, non-recurrent resources in the estimated amount of $63,300 will be required to provide for the travel of staff to accompany and support the travel of representatives.

33. In order to cover airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, it is estimated that $18,200 will be required for two trips of two staff to New York for three days each to accompany the four Chairs of the Durban follow-up mechanisms for the launch (2015) and the final assessment (2024) of the programme, as well as one trip of two staff each to New York for four days to accompany the four Chairs of the Durban follow-up mechanisms attending a two-day midterm review conference.

34. In order to cover airfare, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, it is estimated that $45,100 will be required for the travel of two staff to accompany the experts and stakeholders on the five trips to the regions mentioned in paragraph 8 above for four days each as part of the awareness-raising campaign.

35. A breakdown per biennium for the travel of staff for the launch, midterm review and final assessment, as well as the five regional workshops, is provided in the annex.

External printing

36. The printing and publication of awareness-raising materials required for, inter alia, the organization of the five regional workshops described in paragraph 8 above is estimated at $25,000 per annum for each year of the Decade ($50,000 per biennium), for a total estimate of $250,000 for the Decade.

Fellowship programme

37. It is estimated that resources in the amount of $849,600 will be required under section 24, Human rights, for the implementation of the request contained in paragraph 29 (f) of the annex to the draft resolution to continue and strengthen its fellowship programme for people of African descent. The resources will provide for the travel to Geneva of 10 fellows per year for 10 years from each of the five regions to attend the fellowship training programme for three weeks each.

38. Table 2 below summarizes the estimated resources required under section 24, Human rights, to implement the activities detailed in section IV above.

Table 2
Section 24, Human rights
(United States dollars)

	2014-2015 (1 year)	*2016-2017 (2 years)*	*2018-2025 (7 years)*	*Total*
1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level) posts for 10 years and 1 P-3 General Temporary Assistance post for 3 months	532 000	982 200	3 437 700	4 951 900
Travel of the Chairs of the Durban follow-up mechanisms to launch, midterm and final meetings in New York	20 400	–	43 000	63 400
Awareness-raising: travel of 15 participants (experts and stakeholders) to 5 regional workshops	67 800	67 800	203 500	339 200
Travel of 5 experts, 1 Special Rapporteur and 1 member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to the annual forum on people of African descent, for 10 years	51 000	102 000	357 000	510 000
Travel of 2 staff in support of the launch, midterm and final meetings in New York and of the 5 regional workshops	14 900	9 000	39 400	63 300
Fellowship programme: 10 fellows from 5 regions for 3 weeks per year for 10 years	85 000	169 900	594 700	849 600
Printing and publications ($25,000 per year for 10 years)	25 000	50 000	175 000	250 000
Total, section 24	**796 100**	**1 381 000**	**4 850 500**	**7 027 600**

Section 28, Public information

Contractual services

39. Table 3 below summarizes the estimated resources required to implement the activities and promotional materials in support of the awareness-raising campaign as detailed in section IV.B above. It should be noted that $88,500 is needed under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (2015 only).

Table 3
Section 28, Public information
(United States dollars)

	2014-2015 (1 year)	*2016-2017 (2 years)*	*2018-2025 (7 years)*	*Total*
A. Awareness-raising campaign				
Seed funding to United Nations information centres for promotional activities at the regional and national levels	20 000	40 000	140 000	200 000
Department of Public Information brochure (3 editions in English and French — 30,000 copies total, including translation costs)	8 000	–	24 000	32 000
Exhibits at United Nations Headquarters (September 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2024)	20 000	–	60 000	80 000
Posters (23x32 inches, English and French, 25,000 copies total)	7 500	–	22 500	30 000
Pull-up banners (produced in English and French)	600	–	1 800	2 400
12 short videos for website and social media use	15 000	10 000	35 000	60 000
Subtotal	**71 100**	**50 000**	**283 300**	**404 400**
B. Web design and development, translation and maintenance				
Web design and development	1 800	–	–	1 800
Creation of website (6 languages)	6 300	–	–	6 300
Translation of materials for website	2 600	5 200	18 200	26 000
Year-long maintenance (2015-2025, 6 languages)	6 700	13 500	47 200	67 400
Subtotal	**17 400**	**18 700**	**65 400**	**101 500**
Total, section 28	**88 500**	**68 700**	**348 700**	**505 900**

VI. Other issues

40. With regard to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution and paragraph 29 (l) of the annex, attention is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 68/246, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for

administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

VII. Summary of resource implications

41. The additional requirements of the Secretary-General's proposal, amounting to $9,003,600 for 2015 to 2025, are detailed in table 4 below. The Secretary-General is requesting additional resources of $1,076,400, for 2015 only, under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 in order to implement activities beginning in 2015.

Table 4
Additional resource requirements, by section of the programme budget
(United States dollars)

	2014-2015 (1 year)	*2016-2017 (2 years)*	*2018-2025 (7 years)*	*Total*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	191 800	295 200	983 100	1 470 100
Section 24, Human rights	796 100	1 381 000	4 850 500	7 027 600
Section 28, Public information	88 500	68 700	348 700	505 900
Total	**1 076 400**	**1 744 900**	**6 182 300**	**9 003 600**

VIII. Potential for absorption

42. It is not possible at this stage to identify activities under sections 2, 24 and 28 of the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium in order to meet the additional requirements of $1,076,400. The adoption by the General Assembly of draft resolution A/68/L.56 would therefore entail additional requirements of $1,076,400 under the programme budget for the biennium.

IX. Contingency fund

43. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

X. Summary

44. **Should draft resolution A/68/L.56 be adopted by the General Assembly, additional resource requirements in the amount of $1,076,400, for 2015, would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015, including $191,800 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $796,100 under section 24, Human rights, and $88,500 under section 28, Public information, as well as an additional amount of $70,300 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**

45. **The General Assembly is also requested to approve the establishment of three temporary posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)), for the duration of 10 years under section 24, Human rights, effective 1 January 2015.**

46. **The amount of $1,076,400 would represent a charge against the contingency fund for the biennium 2014-2015.**

47. **The requirements for the forthcoming bienniums, namely, 2016-2017, 2018-2019, 2020-2021, 2022-2023 and 2024-2025, as set out in the annex to the present report, will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the respective biennium.**

48. **The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the present statement of programme budget implications. The Fifth Committee will examine during the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly both a detailed statement of the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon.**

Annex

Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, by programme budget section

	2014-2015 (1 year)	*2016-2017*	*2018-2019*	*2020-2021*	*2022-2023*	*2024-2025 (1 year)*	*Total requirements (10 years: 2015-2024)*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management							
Simultaneous interpretation	55 600	65 400	61 900	37 500	49 100	–	269 500
Pre-session documentation	100 100	191 500	191 500	220 000	185 400	120 000	1 008 500
In-session documentation	3 200	3 300	3 400	3 200	2 900	–	16 000
Post-session documentation	30 900	30 900	30 900	30 900	30 900	–	154 500
Other requirements	2 000	4 000	4 000	4 800	4 000	2 800	21 600
Subtotal, section 2	**191 800**	**295 100**	**291 700**	**296 400**	**272 300**	**122 800**	**1 470 100**
Section 24, Human rights							
1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service for 10 years to support the Decade programme implementation, including to develop and maintain a section dedicated to the Decade for People of African Descent in the anti-discrimination database of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	532 000	982 200	982 200	982 200	982 200	491 100	4 951 900
Travel of the Chairs of the Durban follow-up mechanisms to launch, midterm and final meetings in New York	20 400	–	–	22 500	–	20 400	63 300
Awareness-raising: travel of 15 participants (experts and stakeholders) to 5 regional workshops	67 800	67 800	67 800	67 800	67 800	–	339 000
Travel of 5 experts from the regions, 1 Special Rapporteur and 1 member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to meetings of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to be held over 10 years during the last 3 days of the second yearly session of the Working Group	51 000	102 000	102 000	102 000	102 000	51 000	510 000
Travel of 2 staff in support of the launch, midterm and final meetings in New York and the 5 regional workshops	14 900	9 000	9 000	15 600	9 000	5 800	63 300
Fellowship programme: 10 fellows from 5 regions for 3 weeks per year for 10 years	85 000	169 900	169 900	169 900	169 900	85 000	849 600
Printing and publications	25 000	50 000	50 000	50 000	50 000	25 000	250 000
Subtotal, section 24	**796 100**	**1 381 000**	**1 381 000**	**1 410 100**	**1 381 000**	**678 300**	**7 027 500**

	2014-2015 (1 year)	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020-2021	2022-2023	2024-2025 (1 year)	Total requirements (10 years: 2015-2024)
Section 28, Public information							
A. Awareness-raising campaign							
Seed funding to United Nations Information Centres for promotional activities at the regional and national levels	20 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	40 000	20 000	200 000
Department of Public Information brochure (three editions in English and French — 30,000 copies total, including translation costs)	8 000	–	8 000	8 000	–	8 000	32 000
Exhibits at United Nations Headquarters (September 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2024)	20 000	–	20 000	20 000	–	20 000	80 000
Posters (23x32 inches, English and French, 25,000 copies total)	7 500	–	7 500	7 500	–	7 500	30 000
Pull-up banners (produced in English and French)	600	–	600	600	–	600	2 400
Total 12 short videos for website and social media use	15 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	5 000	60 000
Subtotal, A	**71 100**	**50 000**	**86 100**	**86 100**	**50 000**	**61 100**	**404 400**
B. Web design and development, translation and maintenance							
Web design and development	1 800	–	–	–	–	–	1 800
Creation of website (6 languages)	6 300	–	–	–	–	–	6 300
Translation of materials for website	2 600	5 200	5 200	5 200	5 200	2 600	26 000
Year-long maintenance (2015-2025, 6 languages)	6 700	13 500	13 500	13 500	13 500	6 700	67 400
Subtotal, B	**17 400**	**18 700**	**18 700**	**18 700**	**18 700**	**9 300**	**101 500**
Subtotal, section 28	**88 500**	**68 700**	**104 800**	**104 800**	**68 700**	**70 400**	**505 900**
Total	**1 076 400**	**1 744 900**	**1 777 500**	**1 811 300**	**1 721 900**	**871 500**	**9 003 500**

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Agenda item 44
Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 13 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you on instructions from my Government in order to transmit herewith a reply to the letter dated 10 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations (A/68/747), which in turn responded to the letter of 3 January 2014 sent by Argentina (A/68/698).

The Argentine Republic once again expresses its regret that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has continued to misrepresent historical facts in a clear attempt to conceal the act of usurpation it committed in 1833; this act has, since the moment the British invaded, been the subject of continuing and repeated protests by Argentina.

Reaffirming the Argentine Republic's legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

The Argentine Republic rejects each and every one of the claims contained in the aforementioned British reply, considering them mistaken and contradictory. It reiterates the numerous, solid and irrefutable historical arguments that it set out in the annex to its letter of 3 January 2014 (A/68/698) and, before that, in its letters of 3 January 2013 (A/67/688), 9 April 2013 (A/67/832) and 9 August 2013 (A/67/954), in addition to various related communications whose content it hereby reaffirms.

The Argentine Republic once again expresses its regret that the British Government has continued to misrepresent historical facts in a clear attempt to conceal the act of usurpation it committed in 1833; this act has, since the moment the British invaded, been the subject of continuing and repeated protests by Argentina.

Instead of distorting and falsifying historical events which it has acknowledged and whose consequences it also understands, the United Kingdom should respect the call of the General Assembly for a solution to the sovereignty

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dispute and immediately resume negotiations with Argentina on sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in order to find a just and definitive solution to the dispute. In so doing, it would be acting with the same lawfulness and responsibility that it demands of the rest of the international community from its privileged position in the United Nations.

Argentina recognizes the principle of the self-determination of peoples, under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), in relation to peoples subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation. As that characterization does not apply to the question of the Malvinas Islands, this question has been defined as a "special and particular" case of decolonization involving a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom that must be resolved in a peaceful and negotiated manner, taking due account of the "interests" of the inhabitants of the Islands.

In contrast, the United Kingdom has a questionable and contradictory voting record in the General Assembly on questions of colonialism and self-determination. It is worth recalling the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Héctor Timerman, before the Special Committee on decolonization at its meeting of 20 June 2013, in which he pointed out that, with regard to the 15 territories currently on the Committee's agenda other than Gibraltar and the Malvinas, the United Kingdom had not supported 88 per cent of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Argentina, on the other hand, had supported 81 per cent of those resolutions. As regards the eight cases in which the United Kingdom is the colonial Power — again excluding Gibraltar and the Malvinas — the United Kingdom failed to support 90 per cent of the relevant resolutions, whereas Argentina supported 80 per cent.

Lastly, the United Kingdom has never supported a resolution adopted by the General Assembly on recommendation of the Special Committee regarding former British colonial territories that are now independent countries and members of the Committee. Argentina has never voted against such a resolution.

As regards the transplanted nature of the islands' inhabitants, the Argentine Government can only reaffirm that the inhabitants are British subjects who have stayed on the islands under the protection of a strict migratory policy that has, in general, discriminated systematically against mainland Argentines.

The British letter also refers to the vote that was unilaterally held by the United Kingdom for the inhabitants which that country implanted in the Malvinas Islands. The vote was intended to ask the inhabitants about questions that gloss over the true legal status of the Islands. It is surprising that the United Kingdom should boast about the results of a so-called "referendum" whose predictable outcome, while it confirms that the subjects in question are British, does not modify the colonial nature of the issue and cannot bring an end to the dispute. This was effectively a unilateral British act and therefore a violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49. That is clearly why the vote was not attended by "international observers", whom British diplomats sought out in vain, but rather by a handful of individuals acting in their personal capacity. Nor was the illegitimate vote recognized in any way by the United Nations or other organizations; indeed, it was rejected by numerous and varied countries and regional forums, including the

Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA).

As the Argentine Republic has aptly stated, it is thus the United Kingdom that is departing from the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, since Argentina continually calls on the United Kingdom to cease its efforts to disrupt Argentina's territorial integrity and to agree to comply with the letter of the Charter and, in particular, the requirement that every member of the international community should settle its disputes by peaceful means.

These exchanges of letters merely demonstrate that the dispute exists, that it is ongoing and that it therefore requires a negotiated settlement between Argentina and the United Kingdom in accordance with the United Nations mandate and with the international community's numerous urgings.

The manner in which the United Kingdom selectively cites statements by international and regional forums, in an attempt to support a purported right to self-determination, is telling. In that regard, it is worth recalling once again that the United Nations General Assembly has explicitly denied that the principle of self-determination applies to the question of the Malvinas Islands, given the characteristics that make it a "special and particular" colonial situation. It bears repeating that in 1985, in a decision that removed any doubt regarding the issue, the General Assembly rejected two British attempts to amend the draft resolution on the question of the Malvinas Islands by including a reference to the principle of self-determination. Owing to the specific nature of the case, none of the General Assembly resolutions on the question accepts, states or assumes that the principle of self-determination can apply. To be clear, these are the same resolutions invoked by other organizations, such as the Organization of American States in its regional declarations, not to mention other regional and bi-regional forums which — although the United Kingdom fails to mention it — have expressed firm support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute regarding the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

It is also false for the United Kingdom to state that the events of 1982 are the only reason for its military presence in the Malvinas. It is worth recalling once again the military actions of 1833, which were referred to in the letter of 3 January 2014 (A/68/698) and should be understood in the context of the imperialist policy of the United Kingdom throughout the nineteenth century, in the American continent as well as in Africa and Asia. Moreover, in 1834, the year of the usurpation, the British Government permanently stationed a naval officer on the Islands. Indeed, it is common knowledge that British forces and military facilities in the Malvinas were involved inter alia in the events of the First and Second World Wars, such as the "Battle of the Malvinas" of 8 December 1914 and the manoeuvres to close in on and attack the German cruiser *Admiral Graf Spee* on 13 December 1939.

The United Kingdom justifies its significant military presence in the South Atlantic on the grounds that it is "entirely defensive" in nature. However, since the return of democracy in 1983, no reasonable observer of political and military realities in the South Atlantic could seriously argue that Argentina constitutes a military threat or that its posture has been such as to justify the militarization espoused by the United Kingdom, which is taking various unilateral measures of a hostile nature that do in fact constitute a threat to the security of the region. The

region has unanimously rejected the British military presence in the South Atlantic and has expressed concern about the above-mentioned unilateral activities through a variety of pronouncements by the MERCOSUR States parties and associated States, UNASUR and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and at the Ibero-American Summits and meetings of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

The Argentine Government once again expresses its regret that the United Kingdom has continued to irresponsibly create expectations among the inhabitants of the Islands based on the illicit appropriation of Argentine natural resources, thereby openly violating international law and contravening the statements of international organizations, particularly General Assembly resolution 31/49 referred to above. At the same time, the United Kingdom ignores the fact that the interests of those inhabitants and their way of life are adequately protected by the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and by the Constitution of the Argentine Republic, respectively.

The Argentine Republic affirms that the colonial so-called "government" of the Islands has never participated as such in bilateral meetings, despite the United Kingdom's claim to the contrary. There have always been no more than two parties seated across from one another at the table, which has only two sides. Some inhabitants of the Islands have participated in bilateral meetings with Argentina, but only as part of the British delegation, and the United Kingdom never expressed any objections or demands regarding that situation. The arrangement goes back to the 1970s and is fully consistent not only with the mandate determined by the international community (namely, the bilateral nature of the issue and respect for their interests), but also with the fact that, in the final analysis, the individuals in question are British citizens authorized to live on the Islands under the migratory policy described above.

The Argentine Government reiterates its concern at the United Kingdom's persistence in conducting unilateral activities in the disputed area, in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49. In the same way, it rejects the alleged validity and legitimacy of the United Kingdom's decisions, which it attributes to a purported "government" of the Malvinas, to grant unlawful licences for fishing and the exploration of hydrocarbon reserves in the waters of the Malvinas.

The Argentine Government rejects the United Kingdom's contention that Argentina supposedly "walked away" or "withdrew" from cooperation with the United Kingdom on various issues connected with the South Atlantic. Rather, Britain's unilateral acts prevented the continuation of bilateral cooperation on the relevant issues. The Argentine Government did not "walk away from" the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission in 2005. As the United Nations was duly informed (A/60/594), the Argentine Government proposed to the British Government, on 27 October 2005, that the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission should hold its twenty-eighth meeting. The meeting was held on Tuesday, 6 December 2005. However, the British delegation did not agree to adopt the agenda proposed by the Argentine delegation, which contemplated an examination of the mandate of the Commission and the extent to which it had been affected by a prolonged series of British unilateral measures.

Bilateral cooperation on fisheries issues in the South Atlantic was effectively prevented by successive unilateral acts by the United Kingdom, such as the

establishment of alleged maritime jurisdictions around the Malvinas Islands in 1986 and 1990, and around the South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands in 1993; the sale of unlawful fishing licences since 1987; the unilateral lifting in 1994 of the temporary total prohibition of fishing in the area defined in the annex to the Joint Statement of 28 November 1990 and in the area to the west of that area; and the establishment in 2005 of a quota system for fisheries resources in the waters surrounding the Malvinas Islands, a measure that constitutes a form of unlawful and unilateral long-term disposition of fisheries resources in maritime areas under dispute.

The Argentine Republic recalls that the decision taken in 2007 to terminate the Joint Declaration on Cooperation over Offshore Activities in the South West Atlantic was attributable to repeated unilateral activities by the United Kingdom that ran counter to the aforementioned Declaration, and that it was taken following a period of reflection that began when both countries acknowledged the existence of a dispute relating to the interpretation of the geographical area to which the Declaration applied.

The Argentine Republic again made clear its firm desire for cooperation when, in 2007, it communicated the following decision to the United Kingdom: "It was the intention of the Argentine Government to transmit to the British Government the conclusions reached in relation to this instrument at the diplomatic meeting proposed by Argentina in February 2006 to address the status of all understandings agreed between our two countries" under the formula on sovereignty. "Regrettably, however, that was not possible because of your Government's refusal to hold that meeting" (A/61/827).

Similarly, it should be pointed out that the decision of the Argentine Government to terminate the Argentine-British Joint Declaration was supported by the Heads of State of the South American Community of Nations through the presidential statement on the Malvinas Islands adopted at the First Energy Summit, which was held in Isla Margarita, Venezuela, on 17 April 2007.

As regards the United Kingdom's statements rejecting the adoption of Law No. 26,915, the Argentine Republic reiterates that the measures taken in the context of its domestic jurisdiction address the need to protect the renewable and non-renewable resources that the United Kingdom seeks to exploit. It is therefore legitimate and reasonable that Argentina should continue to take measures aimed at discouraging unlawful unilateral activities. The said measures have been taken by the Argentine Republic in exercise of its sovereign rights and in conformity with international law.

For their part, the Heads of State and Government of the MERCOSUR States parties and associated States have recognized the right of the Argentine Republic to take legal actions under its legislation against the unauthorized exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the disputed area. On 29 November 2013, the Ministers of Energy of the States members of the Latin American Energy Organization took the same position and, moreover, took note of the decisions taken by the Department of Energy of Argentina in respect of companies involved in such illicit actions.

Lastly, the Argentine Government wishes to reiterate that the United Kingdom specifically recognized the existence of the sovereignty dispute at the twenty-fourth

session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, held at United Nations Headquarters in 2009. On that occasion, the Commission stated that, in accordance with its rules of procedure, it was not in a position to consider and qualify those parts of the submission that were subject to dispute (CLCS/64).

The Argentine Republic reaffirms its imprescriptible sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.